

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 417
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the issues involved with historic zoning and preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the preservation of historic neighborhoods and buildings are essential to a community's history and character; and

WHEREAS, land developers sometimes prefer to demolish historic buildings and homes in order to make way for new developments, instead of saving and renovating these important landmarks in our history; and

WHEREAS, homes such as the Newton Copeland Richards House in Memphis, a Queen Anne Victorian home built in the 1880s is one such notable example; and

WHEREAS, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Newton Copeland Richards House is being threatened by new development moving into the neighborhood, which could lead to demolition of this elegant home; and

WHEREAS, historic zoning ordinances vary from municipality to municipality, and some areas such as Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County have ordinances that establish protections for certain historical buildings and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, other areas in the state of Tennessee face similar issues with respect to the preservation of historic neighborhoods and buildings; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the methods for securing the preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the 100th General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly. At its first meeting, the special joint committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and any other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation on interim reports, to the 1998 session of the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.